



F

547

S3K44

Author

Title

Imprint

ADDRESS

OF

CHARLES A. KEYES

Delivered at the Thirty-Third
Annual Picnic Given by the

OLD SETTLERS' SOCIETY

OF

Sangamon County

HELD AT

PAWNEE, THURSDAY, AUG. 14, 1900

Filled With Historic References;
Stories of Hardships Endured by
Pioneers; Their Pleasures Vivid-
ly Recalled.

F547

SECRET

F547

31

6, 12 Feb, 12

ADDRESS OF CHARLES A. KEYES.

As early as the year 1720 the French government had, through its missionaries, Marquette, La Salle, Pinet and others, and by its military power, established a complete line of communication from Quebec, in lower Canada, by way of the great northern lakes through what is now Illinois, down the Mississippi river to the Gulf of Mexico.

In fact this vast and fertile stretch of country was under the dominion of France until the treaty of 1763, at which time it (which is now an empire within itself), together with the Canadas, became an appendage to the British crown, and afterwards, in 1765, the English government, through its officer, Captain Sterling, took possession of what is Illinois.

France, generous France, our friend, had nothing left between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the northern lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, save its possessions west of the Mississippi river, which were afterwards purchased by the Great Jefferson, and in 1803 became a part of the United States and which we all now know as the Louisiana purchase.

France today has not one foot of soil in North America. The glory of her conquests has departed, and the great Mississippi valley and the Louisiana purchase are a powerful integral part of the great Western republic.

THE REVOLUTION.

France had hardly surrendered her possessions in the Canadas and the Mississippi valley until were heard the low, distant rumbling of the coming revolution; the thirteen American colonies declared their independence of Great Britain, the first blow was struck and the war of the revolution was on.

During that great trying struggle for free government the colony of Virginia sent Col. George Rogers Clarke (afterward General Clarke), in command of a detachment of militia into the territory northwest of the river Ohio, to take possession thereof.

COL. CLARKE'S VICTORIES.

Colonel Clarke marched with his forces into the territory, attacked and reduced forts Kaskaskia and Gates and then turned his attention to the reduction of Fort Vincent, and easily took the same. Prior to the expedition of Colonel Clarke the colony of Virginia claimed the territory northwest of the river Ohio (afterward known as the northwest territory), by her charter

granted by James the First of England, but after the successful expedition of Colonel Clarke she claimed the territory by conquest as well as by treaty.

This vast territory extended from the river Ohio to the great northern lakes and west to the Mississippi river, and was named by Virginia the county of Illinois. Would not a board of supervisors now have a time of it in legislating for the county of Illinois?

THE CESSION LAWS.

When the revolution was over and the government of the United States had been formed and the Virginia colony had become an honored State of the Union, the congress passed an act on the 6th day of September, 1780, recommending to the several states of the Union, having claims to waste and unappropriated lands, in the western country, a liberal cession to the United States of a portion of their respective claims for the common benefit of the Union, and thereupon the State of Virginia did, by an act of the general assembly, passed on the 2d day of January, 1781, yield to the congress of the United States, for the benefit of the said States, all right, title and claim which the said State had to the territory northwest of the river Ohio; and afterward came the acts of the general assembly of the commonwealth of Virginia, passed on the 20th day of October, 1873, authorizing Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Hardy, Arthur Lee and James Monroe, delegates representing said commonwealth in congress, to convey, transfer, assign and make over unto the United States, for the benefit of said States (Virginia included), all right, title and claim, as well as of soil as of jurisdiction, which the said commonwealth had to the territory northwest of the river Ohio.

The deed was made by Jefferson, Hardy, Lee and Monroe. Was there ever such another deed made, and by such characters? Was there ever such another made where the makers were so devoid of selfish motives?

Was there ever such another deed made where the results arising therefrom were so great and far-reaching?

FIVE GREAT STATES.

Within the confines of this vast territory there have been carved five great States of the Union.

These States, now with a population, perhaps, of sixteen million people, having a vast and varied commerce, studded with great and splendid cities, sustaining the most gigantic system of railways of any country in the world, and guarding and cherishing a school system which is at least equal to any. This growth, change, advancement and prosperity has come within two hundred years.

By the ordinance of July 13, 1787, congress provided for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of Ohio.

May 7, 1800, an act of congress provided for the organization of a territorial government to be called Ohio. Nov. 29, 1802, Ohio was admitted into the Union as a state. Indiana was erected into a separate territory, and the provisions of the ordinance of 1787 extended over the same on the seventh day of May, 1800. It was admitted into the Union, Dec. 11, 1816.

ILLINOIS TERRITORY.

Illinois was erected into a separate territory and the provisions of said ordinance extended over the same Feb. 3, 1809, and was admitted into the Union as a State Dec. 3, 1818.

In the act passed by congress April 18, 1818, to enable the people of the Illinois territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such State into the Union, certain propositions were submitted to the convention then in session and framing a constitution for the state of Illinois, which, if accepted by the convention, were to be obligatory upon the United States.

LAND GRANTS ASKED FOR.

1. Section 16 of land in every township in the State should be granted to the State for the use of the inhabitants of such townships, for the use of schools.

2. All salt springs within the State and the land reserved for the use of the same, should be granted to the State, for the use of the State.

3. Five per cent of the net proceeds of the lands lying within such state and which shall be sold by congress from and after the first day of January, 1819, after deducting all expenses incident to the same shall be reserved for the purposes following: Two-fifths to be disbursed under the direction of congress, in making roads leading to the State; the residue to be appropriated by the legislature of the State for the encouragement of learning, of which one-sixth part shall be exclusively bestowed on a college or university.

4. Thirty-six sections, or one entire township, which shall be designated by the president of the United States, shall be reserved for the use of a seminary of learning.

The foregoing propositions were offered on the condition that the State convention, then in session, would provide by ordinance, irrevocable, without consent of the United States from and after the first day of January, 1819, should remain exempt from any tax laid by order or under the authority of the State, county or township, for the period of five years from and after

the sale, and that the county lands granted, or thereafter to be granted, for military services during the late war (the war of 1812) should remain exempt from all taxes for the term of three years, and that all lands belonging to the citizens of the United States residing without the State should never be taxed higher than lands belonging to persons residing therein.

The convention accepted the propositions by ordinance passed on the 18th day of April, 1818.

A SPLENDID DONATION.

What a magnificent donation on the part of congress, given with the view of bringing about a general system of education throughout the now great State of Illinois. Yet it must be said that these donations have not been used and disposed of in such a manner as conduced to the best interest of the cause of education.

When the State came into the Union in 1818, the County of Sangamon had not been erected. It was not until the year 1821 that the "Sangamo country," as it was called, became the county of Sangamon.

Out of Sangamon county since its formation have been carved from time to time the following counties and parts of counties: Logan, Tazewell, Mason, Menard, Cass, part of Christian, part of Macon, part of McLean, part of Woodford, part of Marshall and part of Putnam.

SANGAMON AN EMPIRE.

Old Sangamon in territory was an empire. If Virginia is the "mother of presidents," the County of Sangamon is the "mother of counties."

Take Sangamon and the other counties mentioned, as they now are, with their vast well tilled fertile lands, there can be produced from them, in one good crop year, sufficient meats and breadstuffs to supply the people of Chicago for one year, and from their cities, villages and farms there can be furnished and equipped fifty thousand fighting men, for a just cause.

Less than one hundred years ago, the Sangamon country was practically a wilderness, with no inhabitants, save the Indian, the elk, the buffalo, the American deer, the black bear, the panther, the wolf, the wild cat, the wild horse, the wild turkey and the prairie chicken. The gentleman fox, both the gray and red, delayed their coming to the Sangamo country until the time of an advanced civilization.

Now in this year 1900 there are no Indians, no wild beasts, no wild turkeys, no prairie chickens. The coming of the white man has left no room for them. The doom of the North American Indian, as well as that of the wild beasts, is extinction.

EARLY SETTLERS' HARDSHIIPS.

The coming of the early settlers to the Sangamo country was attended with many hardships to the men and women, more especially to the women. They traversed a wilderness without guide or compass, save the stars. Many times they were lost in the dense timber or upon the vast prairies, without shelter from the drenching rains and cold blasts; they were oftentimes without water and could find it at times in no other way than by letting loose their horses or cattle and following them, which by either their instinct or their acute sense of smell would go to the river even if it was ten miles distant. The pestiferous horse flies would compel them to travel by night, and lay by in the day time and build fires, in the smoke of which the stock would stand, well knowing the protection it afforded them from the flies. Their means of transportation were not always adequate. Members of the party would take turns in walking and riding; then at times a horse or steer would die. A greater calamity could hardly come; the lost animal could not be replaced.

HOW A FAMILY CAME.

An old pioneer, in telling how his wife, himself and two children traveled on their way to the Sangamo country, said that the wife, with a child in her arms, was placed upon a horse, with a bed and bed clothing, and upon another the cooking utensils, with two chairs; himself and child were mounted, and thus equipped, their caravan moved along the trackless prairies to their future home, north of the Sangamon.

PRIVATIONS AFTER ARRIVAL.

The hardships and privations of the early settler were not ended upon his arrival to his place of destination. A cabin had to be built to shelter the wife and children, ground had to be cleared in the timber before a crop could be raised; the tough prairie sod could not be broken with the plows and teams then at hand, hence the ground for the crops was prepared in the timber. There were no mills, either saw or grist, nearer than Edwardsville, eighty miles away, to which place the settler had to go with his grist to have it ground. The women and children were left at home, awaiting the return of the husband; their vigils were long and weary. It required brave women to stand guard on such occasions over the children and home, for the Indians then possessed the country, the wolf roamed the prairies and the panther stealthily awaited his prey. Often sickness came to the household, and sometimes death. What greater sadness could come to the heart of the mother than the loss of her child, in the wilderness, she then, perhaps, more than 1,000 miles from her old home and her people?

STRONGEST MAN LEADER.

The men who settled Sangamon county were hardy persons, strong physically and mentally. With them at that early day physical strength marked the leading man, and there was many a combat between powerful men to decide which was entitled to be leader. To illustrate how generally the idea prevailed that the strongest man was the one entitled to lead, I will give an example: The Buckles family lived in the Lake Fork region. The men were powerful and combative, especially Mr. Jerry Buckles. He heard that Andrew McCormick, who lived at Springfield, was a powerful man and had exhibited such strength and prowess that he was acknowledged to be the leader. Buckles decided that he would go to Springfield, hunt up McCormick and challenge him to combat. Buckles came and he found McCormick standing on the pavement in front of the old Glenn tavern. 'Is your name McCormick?' asked Buckles. "Yes," replied McCormick. "I understand," said Buckles, "that you consider yourself the best man in Sangamon county and can whip anyone. I believe that I am a better man than you are, and I can whip you." McCormick replied that he was not a fighting man and said to Buckles to go away and not bother him. Buckles persisted that they should fight; thereupon McCormick seized him and threw him over a horse rack into the street. Buckles got up and said: "That will do; you are the best man. Let us go and take a drink." They drank and shook hands, and Buckles departed for the Lake Fork region.

It is said that Buckles, upon his arrival home, had nothing to say of his fight, but nevertheless the fame of McCormick became known throughout all the countryside around. McCormick was afterward elected to the legislature, and was one of the "long nine" who caused the removal of the capitol from Vandalia to Springfield.

WAS A WONDROUS SIGHT.

Those old settlers who first beheld the prairies of Illinois, stretching far away, adorned with brilliant and variegated flowers, must have stood enraptured at the wondrous sight, and when afterwards they witnessed a prairie fire at night moving with the swiftness of the racehorse, the flames mounting as high as the billows of the ocean, whipped by the winds, the sky and earth around as bright as day, the deer running before the fire for their lives, they must have witnessed the grand and wonderful sight with awe.

A DEER HUNT.

The early settlers had their pleasures, as well as their hardships. They of a neighborhood would come together with

their horses, guns and dogs, for a deer hunt. It would be about sunrise when all would be at the meet. Some of the younger, who were good shots, would be placed by their elders upon a stand, and there await the coming of the deer; the others would mount their horses and with their guns and dogs move out to the starting point. On reaching the point the dogs scattered in different directions with their noses to the ground—the hunt had commenced. Soon one of the dogs would strike a trail. If the trail was not new he would bay gently, yet all the other dogs that heard him would turn towards him and hunt for the trail. The moment the second dog struck the trail he would bay, so with all the other dogs, as they in turn struck the trail, and then would come the full cry of the whole pack, and on they come, horsemen and dogs in full pursuit, and as the trail became hotter, the louder and more frequent the baying of the dogs and the more excited became the horsemen.

Sometimes the stag would pass the stand of one who was a good shot, and from the unerring bullet of the rifle the stag would fall, and the hunt was over. At other times the game, plucky stag, would elude all the stands and continue on in his marvelous flight, with horsemen and dogs in hot and wild pursuit. The chase would prove too fierce and pressing for the frightened and exhausted deer, the shot from the gun of some horseman would bring him to the ground, or the dogs, made more ferocious from their eagerness and long run, with their glaring eyes and open mouths, would rush upon their exhausted prey and bring it to the earth, the horsemen would come up, the deer was dispatched by the use of a knife, the chase was over, and the sun setting in the western sky. The spoils of the hunt were then allotted and each hunter bent his way homeward.

OLD-TIME PARTIES.

Again, they would have parties, men and women, at which they would truly and greatly enjoy themselves. There was no slighting of one another. At such parties their friendship was genuine and sincere, and then they would have their church meetings at the home of this neighbor or that one. Some parson who had wandered out into the great western wilds, like a missionary, would preach to them, and they sang old familiar songs, such as "On Jordon's Stormy Banks I Stand and Cast a Wistful Eye." These church meetings gave them great comfort and consolation.

HAVE PASSED AWAY.

Most of the old settlers have passed away; they have crossed the river. Their names are perpetuated by their deeds and their descendants. Who does not know the Enoses, the Jaynes, the Bergens, the Drennaus, the Halls, the Matheneys, the

Stouts, the Brittons, the Pulliams, the Barretts, the Smiths, the Hudsons, the Parkinsons, the Iles, the Campbells, the Bradfords, the Millers, the Matthews, the Carpenters, the Brooks, the Fagans, the Kelleys, the Hessers, the Herndons, the Logans, the Butlers, the Pasfields, the Gardners, the Dunlaps, the Freemans, the Taylors, the Grimsleys, the Elkins, the Constants, the Councils, the Darneilles, the Easleys, the Pyles, the Burtles, the Talbotts, the Casses, the Dawsons, the Days, the Dodds, the Danners, the Gattons, the Knotts, the Kalbs, the Doziers, the Maurers, the Newmans, the Jarretts, the Staleys, the Sims, the Jones, the Browns, the Lymans, the Breckenridges, the Webers, the Masons, the Cantralls, the Primms, the Balls, the Childs, the Allens, the Watts, the Sanders, the Hawleys, the Yates, the Davieses, the Eplers, the Purvines, the Ridgelys, the Irwins, the McDaniels, the Nottinghams, the Norths, the Duncans, the Wilcoxes, the Wychoffs, the Yoakums, the Neals, the Staffords, the St. Clairs, the Browns, the Walters, the Coopers, the Lasswells, the Williams, the Brewers, the Bridges, the McCoys, the Fullenwidars, the Carters, the Crouches, the Edwards, the Winemans, the Kesslers, the Ables, the Pattons, the Conklings, the Lindsays, the Lanphiers, the Youngs, the Hathaways, the Powers, the Talkingtons, the Scotts, the Lambs, the Shepards, the Spieers, the Gigers, the McLonds, the Wises, the Piekrells, the Elliotts, the Hayes, the Francisies, the Southwicks, the Bolins and the Insleys.

THE PIONEER PREACHERS.

The old pioneer preachers must not be forgotten on an occasion like the present.

It is an historical fact that the honey bee came to the Sangamo country just before the coming of the white man, and that the quail came just after the white man. Perhaps the bees came before to provide a supply of wild honey for the pioneer preachers to eat, as John the Baptist had often eaten wild honey while he was preaching in the wilderness of Judea. And perhaps the quail came after as the quail "came up and covered the camp for Israel to feed upon" as they marched from the land of Egypt.

It may be that the quail came to the Sangamo country for the pioneer preachers to feed upon until the coming of the yellow-legged chicken.

There was Peter Cartwright, who did eat wild honey and quail and told his camp-meeting congregation to wait until he made the devil pray; he left the pulpit, seized a rowdy who was disturbing the meeting, and whipped him until he prayed. You can almost yet hear the gentle voice of Hooper Crews calling sinners to repentence, and the Rev. John G. Bergen preaching Presbyterianism in the wilderness, and Aaron Vandever, "the

iron-side Baptist," thundering in the ears of sinners that the only way to be saved was by water, and you can see, in your mind's eye, the Rev. Hale standing and calling to his auditors to come to Jesus Christ and be saved, and there is Father Hamilton pointing his communicants to the cross and saying to them, through the blood of Christ you must be saved. Then comes Jonathan Stamper. He is preaching at a revival with great force and eloquence; he is depicting to his hearers hell; it is limitless, bottomless, a lake of brimstone and fire; figuratively he is shaking the sinner over the burning abyss. It is needless to say that his revivals were always a success.

MARRIED WITHOUT LICENSE.

There stands the Rev. Rivers Cornick, who married Edward Clark to Sarah Viney, without a license, March 4, 1821; afterwards when the county of Sangamon had been formed, April 10, 1821, he remarried Edward and Sarah.

The presiding elder is to preach. The Rev. Peter Akers is in the pulpit. He is the defender of the faith; he is to promulgate the doctrine. With great power and clearness he states what are the tenets of the Methodist church, and with a learning and argument unsurpassed he defends those tenets or doctrines of the church.

Now comes the Rev. Stribbling, last but not least, he who is addicted to the use of big words so strange and unmeaning to the ears of the plain, simple people of his congregation. He approaches, in the evening, the house of a brother of the faith, for shelter and care for himself and horse; he is cordially welcomed; the boy is sent to take his horse and rig. The Rev. Stribbling says to the boy: "Youth, disengage the quadruped from the vehicle, divest him of his trappings, conduct him to the receptacle where he may drink his fill of the waters, then repair with him to a place of shelter, and give to him for his meal Indian maize, with cured grass, commonly called hay.

The time for his sermon comes, the church is crowded, the Rev. Stribbling delivers one of his characteristic discourses. The words and sayings are too profound for his listeners; they wonder at his great knowledge.

It may be said of the reverend gentleman, as the poet Goldsmith said of his brother, the teacher:

"While words of learned length and thundering sound,
Amazed the gazing rusties ranged around—
And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew,
That one small head should carry all he knew."

These reverend gentlemen have been gathered to their fathers.

Here permit me to say something about the tribe of Kickapoo Indians.

THE HOME OF THE KICKAPOOS.

THE LANDS OF THE KICKAPOOS, AS GIVEN AND DESCRIBED
BY PERRY J. ARMSTRONG IN HIS HISTORY OF THE NORTH-
WESTERN INDIANS.

The lands of the Kickapoos, as given and described by Perry J. Armstrong in his history of the Northwestern Indians.

The Sacs and Foxes owned land commencing on the Mississippi River, at the mouth of the Illinois river, running thence up the Illinois River to where Fort Clark then stood, where the city of Peoria now stands; thence in a direct line to a point on the Wisconsin River, seventy miles above its mouth; thence down that river to the Mississippi, and down the Mississippi to the place of beginning, besides the entire State of Iowa and northeastern Missouri, containing the aggregate of about fifty millions acres of land.

The Sauks had a small village near the mouth of the Des Moines River, in Iowa, and the Foxes a similar one on the south side of the Mississippi, where the city of Moline now stands.

To the north and east of their possessions were the territories of the Pottawattamies and Winnebagoes, and adjoining them were the lands of the Chippewas and Ottawas, while to the south laid the lands of the Kickapoos.

The Kickapoos and the Mascoutins are treated here as but one tribe, for the difference between them was only nominal at best. The name is found written in the French Authorities as "Kick-a-poux," "Kick-a-pous," "Kiek-a-bou," "Quick-a-pous." Some authorities claim the name to have been derived from the Algonquin word Nee-gig (the otter, or the spirit of an otter). Prof. Henry R. Schoolcraft, a recognized authority on the ethnology of the northwestern tribes, alluding to the Kickapoos, says they are an "eratic" race, who under various names, in connection with the Sacs and Foxes, have in good keeping with one of their many names, which is said, by one interpretation, to mean Rabbits (Ghost (Wahboos with little variation in dialect being the word for Rabbits), skipped over half the continent, to the manifest discomfort of both German and American philologists who, in searching for the so-called Mascoutens, have followed, so far as their results are concerned, an "ignis fatuus."

Mr. Beckwith says in his book of the History of the Northwest Indian that the Kickapoos have been long connected with the history of the northwest, in which they acquired great notoriety as well for the wars in which they were engaged with other tribes, as for the persistent hostilities to the white race throughout a period of nearly one hundred and fifty years.

From Fox River, Wis., the Kickapoos seem to have passed to the south, extending themselves in the direction of Rock River

and a southern trend at Lake Michigan. Prior to 1718 they had a village on Rock River, in the vicinity of Chicago. They hated the French Missionaries, and took several of them prisoners. Later, and by progressive approaches, the Kickapoos worked further southward and established themselves in the territory lying between the Illinois and the Wabash Rivers, and south of Kankakee.

The migration was not accomplished without opposition and bloodshed in punishing the Piankeshous east and south to the Wabash, and the Illinois tribes south and west upon the lower waters of the Kaskaskia. The Kickapoos approached the Wabash from the northwest. It is evident that prior to 1752 they had driven the Illinois tribes from the hunting grounds lying eastward and south of the Illinois River.

In this conquest they were assisted by the Saes and Foxes and Pottawattamies. Within the limits of the territory defined by the treaty at Edwardsville in 1819, the Kickapoos, for generations before that time, had many villages. The principal of these were Kickapogooni on the western bank of the Wabash, near Hudsonville, Crawford Co., Illinois, and known in the early days of the northwest territory as Musquiton (Mascoutine), another on both sides of the Vermillion River at its confluence to the Wabash, higher up the Vermillion were other Kickapoo towns, particularly the one some four miles west of Danville. The remains of one of the most extensive burial grounds in the Wabash Valley still attest the magnitude of this once populous Indian city, and although the village site has been in cultivation for over fifty years, every recurring year the plow share turns up flint arrow points, stone axes, gun flints, gun locks, knives, silver brooches, or other mementoes of its former inhabitants. These people were greatly attached to the country watered by the Vermillion and its tributaries; and Governor Harrison found a difficult task to reconcile them to ceding it away. During the period when the territory west of the Mississippi belonged to Spain, her subjects residing at St. Louis "carried on a considerable trade among the Indians eastward of the Mississippi, particularly the Kickapoos".

Further northward they had other villages, among them one toward the headwaters of Sugar Creek, a tributary of Sangamon River near the southwest corner of McLean County (this village was burned in the fall of 1812 by a part of Governor Edward's forces, while on their march from Camp Russell to Peoria Lake). "Vide Gov. Reynolds My Own Times".

"In the month of August, 1791, the expedition, led by Gen. James Wilkinson, left Kentucky, under orders given by Governor Sinclair (then the executive head of the military, as well as of the civil affairs of the northwest territory)." We find the following: "Should the success attend you at L'Anguille" (the Eel

River town on Eel River, some six miles above Logansport, Indiana, which was to be attacked), which I wish and hope you may find yourself equal to the attacking the Kickapoo town situated in the prairie not far from Sangamon River, which empties itself into the Illinois River. The General did reach the great Kickapoo town, but not the prairie village near the Sangamon River. Mr. Peck, in his historical sketch of the early American settlements in Illinois, says: "The Kickapoos were numerous and warlike, and had their principal towns on the Illinois and the Vermillion Rivers. They were the most formidable and dangerous neighbors to the whites and, for a number of years, kept the settlements (on the American bottoms) in continual alarm." In the desperate plans of Tecumthe, the Kickapoos took an active part.

"We find no instance in which the Kickapoos were allied with either the French or the British in any of the intrigues or wars for the control of the fur trade or the acquisition of disputed territories in the northwest. They did not mix or mingle their blood with French or other white people, and as compared in this regard with other tribes in the voluminous treaties with the Federal Government there is a singular absence of land reservations of half bred Kickapoos. As compared with other Indians, the Kickapoos were industrious, intelligent, and cleanly in their habits, and were better armed and clothed."

As a rule, the men were tall, sinewy, and active; the women lithe, and many of them by no means lacking in beauty.

Governor Reynolds' Pioneer History of Illinois.

With the close of the war of 1812 the Kickapoos ceased their hostility towards the whites, and a few years later disposed of the residue of their lands in Illinois and in Indian, and, with the exception of a few bands, emigrated west of the Mississippi.

Governor Reynolds says of them, "they disliked the United States so much that they decided when they left Illinois that they would not reside within the limits of our government, but would settle in Texas; a large body of them did go to Texas, and when the lone star republic became a member of the Federal Government these Kickapoos retired to New Mexico, and later some of them went over to Old Mexico.

The Kickapoos of the Vermilion and the Sangamon Rivers were the last to emigrate—in 1832 and 1833—when they joined a body of their people upon the reservation set apart for their use near Fort Leavenworth.

For several years prior to the years 1832-1833 the Kickapoos, or rather those who were left of them after others had left Illinois, made their home upon the lands bordering upon the Sangamon River, and Salt Creek, which flows into the Sangamon a short distance below the City of Petersburg.

They built a village where Middletown now stands on the banks of Salt Creek, in Logan County. There are traces of their

camps up and down the Sangamon River and Salt Creek. Their camping places seem to have been generally located upon elevated ground, for to this day the Indian stone axes, flint arrow points, and pieces of pottery are found upon elevated pieces of ground, and in close proximity with the streams of water such as the Sangamon River, Salt Creek, Sugar Creek, Spring Creek, Lake Fork, Lick Creek and other streams.

They may have had a burial place at a point on the Sangamon River north of the mill known as the Carpenter Mill, for in excavating and cutting down a hill on the north side of the Sangamon to be used for the purposes of a road some sixteen skeletons were discovered and supposed to be the remains of Kickapoo Indians, and the supposition was that at some time that had been one of their burying places.

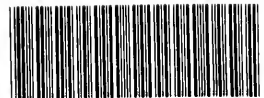
During the last years of their residence here they were perfectly friendly with the white settlers, and committed no depredations. It was after the year 1832 that they gathered together their wigwam plunder, together with their squaws, ponies and dogs, and left the bottoms of the Sangamon forever and turned their faces to the country west of the Mississippi. Of this once numerous, powerful and warlike Indian tribe there are now not more than fifty remaining, and they are living in the Indian Territory upon the bounty of friendly Indians.

OLD SETTLERS GAINED FAME.

Many of the old settlers of Sangamon county became distinguished men in politics, in the pulpit, in the law, in medicine, in mercantile pursuits and farming.

The fame of Lincoln, Douglas and Baker is world-wide. There were no lawyers in the State who excelled in ability and tact Stephen T. Logan, John T. Stuart and Josiah Lambourne, and right abreast with them were Milton Hay, Benjamin S. Edwards, Ninian W. Edwards, Elliott B. Herndon, my old preceptor, William H. Herndon, William I. Ferguson, David Logan, Thomas A. Bradford, David B. Campbell, Antrim Campbell, Jonathan H. Pugh, James C. Conkling, Silas W. Robbins, William J. Black and John Calhoun.

I think it can truthfully be said of John Calhoun that in point of particular and general education he was the peer of any, and in political debate, Lincoln, Logan, Baker and Stuart had on more than one occasion cause to feel and know his power, and Judge Samuel H. Treat was one of them. The political combats of those early days were fierce and long. The struggle in 1838 between Stephen A. Douglas and Major John T. Stuart for a seat in congress was long and bitter.



SOME EARLY POLITICS.

Dr. Jacob Early, David Prickett, Rev. Aaron Vandever and James W. Keyes, as delegates to the Democratic convention, held at Peoria in 1838, went to said convention and brought about the nomination of Douglas. Major Stuart was the Whig candidate opposed to him. The congressional district was known as the Third, and extended from Greene county to Lake Michigan. The length of the campaign was six months. The two candidates traveled together and held joint debates. They lived at Springfield and no other two men in the district had more earnest, devoted and unselfish friends than they. The fight was more than terrific. Before the election was over all hands were called into the field to take part—Lincoln, Logan, Bledsoe and the young Whig gentry, together with the late Richard W. Thompson, of Indiana, held up the hands of Stuart, and John Calhoun, the Rev. Vandever and the young bare-footed Democracy held up those of Douglas. The election was had and Douglas was beaten sixteen votes, but from that time on Douglas was the leader of the Democracy of Illinois.

LABORS NEARLY DONE.

The old pioneers, where are they? Passed to the beyond, except a few who are still here, but their faces are turned toward the setting sun. You can see them walking slowly in the lengthening shadows, their labors are drawing to a close; they will soon see the light that is beyond the skies.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 649 862 0